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UNCLAS ADANA 0162

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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY

JUNE 19, 2003

1. This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for June 19, 2003. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

1. Cumhuriyet, Evrensel, Sabah, Milliyet, Radikal, / A theatre group was questioned by the police in Hakkari, because they had the colors of yellow, red, and green on the mosquito net they were using in the play. The colors are known as the colors of the Kurdish flag. The players said they had no particular intention of choosing those colors.

2. Evrensel, Milliyet / Turkey has temporarily closed the Habur border gate. There have been some reports of difficulties when entering into Turkey through Habur gate.

3. Sabah, Turkiye / Turkish Electric Distribution Company (TEDAS) sent two attorneys to court for the Hasan Balikci murder case. The action is welcomed by the TEDAS workers and Balikci's family. Balikci had started an investigation into a factory owner who was using an unauthorized power line in his factory. His wife says she is receiving threat calls everyday and is worried about her life.

4. Hurriyet, Gunaydin, Bolge, Turkiye, /Greta Holtz, The US Consul in Adana is leaving Turkey in two weeks time. She visited the governor and the mayor of Adana to say "goodbye".
HOLTZ